

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERISLAND FERRY SYSTEM  
SIMILAR TO THE FERRY SYSTEM OPERATED BY WASHINGTON STATE.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, Hawaii does not enjoy the  
2 benefit of being linked to other states, cities, or towns via  
3 the federal interstate highway system or a network of  
4 interconnected state and local highways; and  
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6 WHEREAS, air transportation is currently the only efficient  
7 means of travel between Hawaii's major islands; and  
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9 WHEREAS, an interisland ferry system can serve as an  
10 efficient alternative for transporting passengers and cargo; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries, which is part of the  
13 Washington State Department of Transportation, operates the  
14 largest ferry system in the United States; and  
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16 WHEREAS, with twenty-two ferries traversing Puget Sound and  
17 its inland waterways, Washington State Ferries serves as a  
18 marine highway for commercial users, tourists, and daily  
19 commuters; and  
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21 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries employs approximately  
22 eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most popular tourist  
23 attraction; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
28 Transportation is requested to study the feasibility of  
29 establishing an interisland ferry system similar to the ferry  
30 system operated by Washington State; and  
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to emphasize compliance of an interisland ferry system with the State's environmental protection laws, including chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to identify appropriate routes and harbors for an interisland ferry system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to consider:

- (1) Potential costs and revenues of an interisland ferry system;
- (2) Financing options for an interisland ferry system, including the establishment of rates or fees to address operating costs; and
- (3) Parameters of an interisland ferry system, including vessel design and speed, passenger capacity, cargo capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility with harbor infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.

OFFERED BY:

*Michelle Iudani*  
*Clarence Driskien*  
*Laraine R. Troncy*

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